Status of science publications

2213. SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government agree with the findings on the status of science publications in India, as contained in UNESCO Science Report, 2005;

(b) if so, the reasons for the decline in science publications from India;

(c) whether Government will consider including publications of research papers with high citation index, as an essential service requirement for the university teachers;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) if so, by when this scheme will be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir, the number of science publications have been shown a constant increase over the past few years.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir, the University Grants Commission in its meeting held on 18th January, 2002 considered the criteria for promotion from the post of Reader to the post of Professor under Career Advancement Scheme and resolved that a minimum of 5 research publications, out of which two could be books, will be a mandatory qualification for promotion from Reader to Professor under Career Advancement Scheme, *w.e.f.* 1st March, 2002.

Pace of Research work in Basic Sciences

†2214. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the pace of research and exploration work in the field of basic science has become slow in the country in the last few years;

(b) if not, the facts in this regard;

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) whether it is a fact that University Grants Commission has given certain suggestions to bring improvement in this field;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to implement the said suggestions?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. Participation in basic science research at global level is usually measured by number of research papers published in cited international journals. The number of research papers published by Indian scientists has increased from 15699 in 2003 to 16001 and 2004 and, further, to 19448 in 2005.

(c) & (d) However, to further boost basic science research, especially in the universities, the Government of India constituted a high-level Task Force. The Task Force has made several suggestions like filling up of vacant sanctioned faculty positions in universities, creation of large number of Research Scientist positions, linkage between universities and national laboratories, organization of summer and winter schools, providing enhanced funding for research etc. The University Grants Commission is implementing the recommendations of the Task Force.

(e) A number of steps have already been taken by the Government of India to rejuvenate and promote basic science research in universities and other scientific institutions. The Research Infrastructure programme of the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and the Special Assistance programme of the University Grants Commission (UGC) are targeted programmes to upgrade the laboratory infrastructure in universities and other higher educational institutions. Several centres of excellence and facilities in emerging and frontline areas have also been established. Various agencies of Government of India have now attractive scholarship, fellowship and research support schemes for scientific manpower of all ages starting right from the school level.

More recently, the Government has set up three new Indian Institutes of Science Education and Research (IISERs) at Kolkata, Pune and Mohali. A National Institute of Science Education and Research is also being set up at Bhubaneswar. These institutes, apart from carrying out frontline and internationally competitive research, would offer integrated M.Sc. programmes in a multi-disciplinary and academically flexible and research-oriented environment.

The Government, in the XIth plan, is also proposing to launch a new scheme called INSPIRE (Innovation in Science Pursuit for Inspired Research). The main features of the proposed scheme will be: (1) innovation funding in schools (one million young innovators); (2) summer camp with science icons (for high performers); (3) assured opportunity schemes for proven talent force; and (4) retention of talent in public funded research through public-private partnerships. In addition, another new scheme on Scholarships for Science in Higher Education will be initiated in the XIth Plan. The scheme targets institution of 10,000 fellowships of Rs. 1,00,000/- per year for bright students in science streams during their B.Sc/M.Sc. courses.

Expenditure by Bose Institute, Kolkata

2215. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that audit observed some wasteful expenditure by certain units like the Bose Institute, Kolkata;

(b) if so, the details of such observations during last two years and the reasons therefor;

(c) whether any responsibility has been fixed for any irregularity; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) and (b) No, Sir. No wasteful expenditure has been observed by audit in respect of Bose Institute, Kolkata during the last two financial years *i.e.* 2004-05 and 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

Facilities in National Institute of Oceanography

2216. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to upgrade and/or provide more infrastructural, technological and scientific facilities to the National Institute of Oceanography, Goa; and